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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 13 | Humidity 58% Generally clear sky Sensex 59,330 | Nifty 17,604 | Gold 56,787 | Silver 68,390 | Dollar 81.55 | Euro 88.61 | GBP 100.95

How a black spot in Majestic was transformed by an eco-friendly toilet now providing employment to a differently abled woman

THE FINAL SO-LOO-TION

Facility set up at a cost of Rs 25 lakh along footpath

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Once, the footpath adjacent to Lokmanya Tilak Park near Tulasithota was one of the black spots in and around the Majestic area. It has been a destination for 'irresponsible and uncivilised' auto rickshaw drivers and pedestrians to attend nature's call. It was very tough for the pedestrians frequenting the stretch, especially those who wanted to enter Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station.

Now, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has found a permanent solution to the issue: an Eco Friendly Toilet constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 25 lakh along the footpath. It is not only free but is open round the clock for the public. There is a provision of a stationery shop at the toilet block reserved for a differently abled woman.

"The space was full of debris and was being used as an open urinal. The funds were allocated under the Chief Minister's Nagarothana scheme when Siddaramaiah was the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

"I am very happy to get an opportunity to open a small shop at the toilet complex..." —Usha

Get the tractor outta here

Despite orders to traffic officials to ensure tractors are not plying inside city limits, they are being used to ferry debris, garbage

| Saumyangi Yadav
c-saumyangi.yadav@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite a recent notice from the special commissioner of traffic police that prohibited the use of white-board tractor vehicles inside city limits, the same is still being used for civic work and garbage collection inside the city, residents have complained.

On January 16, special commissioner (traffic) MA Saleem issued a notice to all the deputy commissioners for traffic in the city asking the officials to take appropriate action against tractors.

"Unauthorised movement of tractors is causing traffic problems in the city and it is seen that agricultural vehicles are being used for waste disposal and other purposes… The unhindered movement of tractors across the city, even during peak hours, without any limit, highlights the negligence and irresponsibility of the officers in charge of the sector. This is not desirable, you are hereby advised to take this matter seriously in the near future and book cases against the owners of such tractors and take disciplinary action against the officials concerned for dereliction of duty," the notice said.

The DCPs were also advised to take strict action against all the vehicles being used for other purposes in the city.

"It seems that though there is a proper

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 LOL, folks

Nexus Shantiniketan Mall Bangalore has this time lined up an exclusive live performance by Amit Tandon, one of the finest talents in India's stand-up comedy genre. Famous for his observational, refreshing and contemporary humour Amit Tandon has already received wide acclamation across the country and is all set to enthral the audience of Bengaluru this time. **Venue:**
Where: Algorythm, Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, Whitefield
When: January 28, 7.00 PM onwards
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

02 Darshan Raval, live

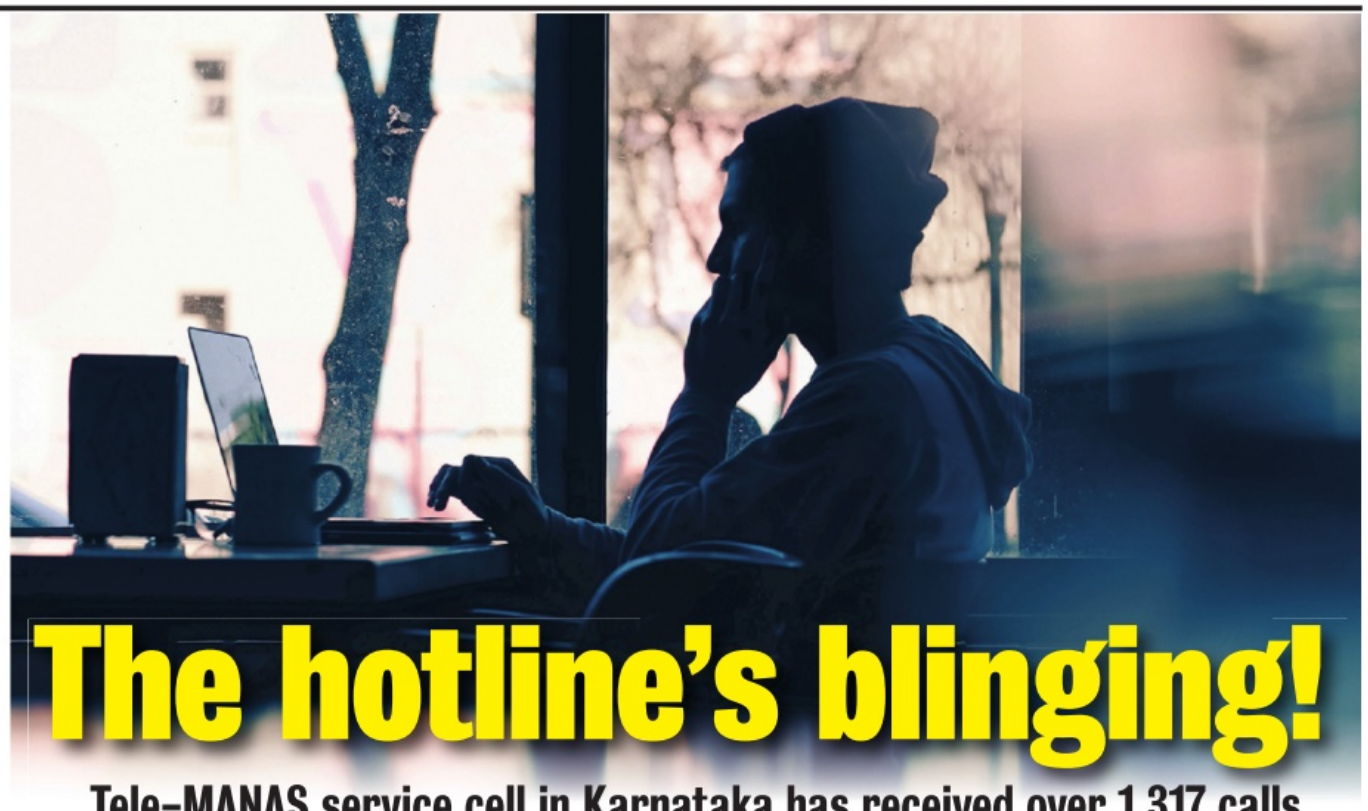
Phoenix Marketcity, Bengaluru is all set to host a spellbinding musical concert with Darshan Raval at the Love-A Fair India Tour. Raval has lent his voice to many Bollywood hit numbers like: 'Chogada' from the movie Loveyatri, 'Kamariya' from the movie Mitron, 'Teri Aankhon Mein' from the album Teri Aankhon Mein, and many more.

Where: Courtyard Phoenix Marketcity
When: Jan 28, 6pm onwards
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

03 Dance drama & spirituality

Krshala Dance Theatre presents kathak dance drama 'Amrapali, the rise, the fall the awakening' by Simran Godhwani & Ensemble. This is a dance drama celebrating the spiritual journey of Amrapali, the famous Nagar-Vadhu of the Republic of Vaishali in Northern India, sometime during the period 500-600 BC. The production traces her rise to power and material wealth, love and loss, trial and punishment and the final resurrection and spiritual awakening.

Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
When: Jan 28, 5:30pm
Tickets: insider.in



The hotline's blinging!

Tele-MANAS service cell in Karnataka has received over 1,317 calls related to stress, sleeplessness, feeling low, anxiety, relationship issues

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Ever since its inception in October 2022, the Karnataka Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) service cell has so far received over 1,317 callers in need of mental health assistance.

Over 25 states in the country, including union territories are part of the Tele-MANAS digital mental health network platform. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru is its nodal centre while the other one in Karnataka is at the Dharwad Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (DIMHANS).

Dr Pratima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS said, " Over 12,000+ calls have been received for mental health assistance. We have been getting calls regarding stress issues, sleeplessness, low mood, anxiety and also relationship issues. A small number of calls are related to feeling suicidal or violent. At present, this seems to be mirroring the national trend in the calls received by Tele-MANAS."

> **"A small number of calls are about the person feeling suicidal or violent — at present this seems to be the national trend**
> –Dr Pratima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS

Dr Murthy explained the procedure carried out when a person calls for mental health assistance. "On calling, the caller will get connected to a counsellor who would then identify whether to escalate the call to a mental health specialist, that is a psychiatrist or psychologist or psychiatric social worker, either within the cell or to other specialists who are part of Tele-MANAS.

Currently the recruitment of counsellors is stated to be in full swing. Most of the states are on recruitment process, where they are recruiting counsellors. To start off, the states are recruiting 10 counsellors. Depending on the need, we may increase it. States like Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Island have logistics and connectivity issues, which is a hindrance. However, we are working on it and in the next few weeks we will have the recruitment process done and start the service in all the states, said Dr Naveen Kumar C, Professor of Psychiatry and Head of community psychiatry NIMHANS.

The International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) which is providing the technology support are working on making the services 24*7. So far only Madhya Pradesh and Telangana are carrying out round-the-clock service. A video call option will also be provided.

Prof T K Srikanth, Convenor, EHRC, IIIT Bangalore said, "In the next three months we will have video call options. Those who are comfortable and would want to get on a call, can avail of that service. Currently we are working on it, to get the systems in place. We have been working with NIMHANS, through providing technology solutions. We have worked on the E Manas platform, mind notes app and now the Tele-MANAS."

Toll-free number: 14416 and 1-800-891-4416

This loo's cool

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CM but the BBMP delayed the construction of the toilet," said Naveen Thejas, former corporator of Gandhinagar ward.

The Eco Friendly Toilet has a state of art washroom and round the clock service besides providing employment to the specially abled.

"I am very happy to get an opportunity to open a small shop at the toilet complex. I am a differently abled woman with two children. My husband deserted me due to reasons best known to him. I am expecting to earn money through the shop by selling coffee, tea and biscuits," said Usha from Srirampura.

She said that she has been appealing to the elected representatives and politicians to help her get a job for livelihood. "I am yet to avail the pension from the state government. I find it difficult to walk as one of my legs became unfit since my childhood. My two children are studying at a BBMP school," she said.

> **The Eco Friendly Toilet has state of the art washroom, round the clock service besides provision for employment to specially abled**

Many pedestrians and auto rickshaw drivers appreciated the BBMP for constructing the Eco Friendly Toilet. Some of them said the BBMP authorities should have constructed this toilet a few years ago.

"I want to thank the BBMP for constructing a state of the art toilet. It will be a great help for thousands of people since it is expected to function round the clock," said Ashok K, an auto rickshaw driver.

Condemning the people responsible for the black spot on the footpath, Kumaraswamy K, a pedestrian, said that he wanted the BBMP to send marshals to penalise those creating nuisance on the footpath. "I want the public to utilise this facility. I appeal to the general public not to create any nuisance on the footpath," said Kumaraswamy.

The Eco Friendly Toilet is solar enabled and Sewage Treatment Plant enabled; the toilet block has stink sensors as well. The other facility is the sanitary pad vending machine.

The toilet block has four urinals, four European water closets and two wash basins for gents toilet; the ladies' toilet has four European water closets and two wash basins. The toilet has an exclusive facility for differently abled persons. It has the wheel-chair facility for the benefit of senior citizens and the specially abled too.

Meanwhile, BBMP solid waste management technical officer Basavaraj Kabade said the Eco Friendly Toilet constructed near Tulasi Thota is the first of its kind. "We have a plan to extend these facilities to other areas where it is required," said Kabade.

There's no smoke without fire at this lake

Grass torched on Chunchaghatta Lake's premises; residents want better security

Walkers in Chunchaghatta Lake noticed a portion of the land being burnt

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The residents living near Chunchaghatta Lake and the lake's patrons want security measures to be beefed up at the lake after they recently spotted parts of grass being torched on the lake's premises.

Raghavendra B Pachhapur, working with ActionAid India, said, "A stretch of grass had been burnt there. There is no explanation as to who did it or why they did that. There were no signs of burning anything else either. Moreover, it is not a forest area that can catch fire on its own, hence, someone must have done it on purpose. This highlights the security lapse in the area. These incidents will also affect the ecology of the lake."

He added that just a few days ago, Painted Storks, a large species of birds was spotted in the lake. He added, "These birds are usually seen in less water. Luckily, Chunchaghatta Lake has some stretches where the receding water will expose the land which attracts these birds. And after spotting these birds we came across this incident."

The lake is home to 3 endangered bird species, making security lapses even more worrying

He added that Chunchaghatta Lake was home to three near-threatened species of birds – Oriental Darter, Black-headed Ibis as well as Painted Storks.

The residents staying nearby have mentioned that they have noticed security lapses in the area several times. Sukumar K, a resident staying nearby, said that since the guards are not present all the time, it becomes very easy for the people to just go inside and carry out all bad activities. The authorities should pay special attention to maintaining the security of the area.

Some of the residents also pointed out the poor fencing of the lake. A resident, on account of being anonymous, said that the fencing is not built properly in the lake and the fence that is there, can be easily tresspassed. The lack of guards in the area also makes it easy for people to come in and trash the place. This is not only affecting the beauty of the place but also the ecosystem of the lake.

Srikanth K, another resident, said that security lapses are something that needs to be taken seriously. "Several times the gates have been open making it easy for people to enter and do anything. Moreover, I have also seen trash in the area on several occasions. All these need to be stopped."

A BBMP official said that they would look into the matter.

BMTC's busy keeping itself all charged up

Transport corporation to add 10 e-depots to meet demand; all depots may be electrified by next year

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To meet the growing demand for electric vehicles, BMTC is planning to increase the number of e-depots.

As per current plans, BMTC will add 10 more e-depots to meet the upcoming requirement of the growing EV fleet. To cater to the 921 buses, BMTC is planning to launch 10 e-depots and plans to electrify all depots by next year. BMTC will be requesting the state government to aid the corporation in electrifying at least half the depots.

Each BMTC vehicle gets charged twice — opportunity and full charge. The opportunity charge allows BMTC to run the buses for another 70-80 km. Increased depots will allow for smoother services for passengers and BMTC.

BMTC runs opportunity charging stations at KBS, Kengeri, Yeshwanthpur and Central Silk Board bus stations.

BMTC Director (IT) AV Surya Sen said, "These buses are also longer and BMTC is deriving good revenue from them. However, we planned to schedule the EV buses on the most popular routes. The measure has also allowed BMTC to conserve operational expenses."

BMTC is yet to start the Yeswanthpur to Bidadi route -- it will be started in the coming weeks. Routes from Surya City will be started in approximately two months or end of March.

From April 2022- November 2022, BMTC ran 207 schedules with 210 buses running. Cumulatively, the buses ran for 54.25 lakh km and earned a traffic revenue of Rs 2447.43 lakh for the corporation. BMTC had to incur a cost of Rs 2678.35 lakh. For every km, BMTC is incurring a loss of Rs 4 and has to pay an average of Rs 45.11 per km. As a cost-effective solution, BMTC has gone with the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model under which it leases buses and pays the company to run the buses and is paid a fixed amount per km basis.

Each BMTC vehicle gets charged twice — opportunity and full charge

Another 330 12m buses have been leased from Switch Mobility Ltd, a subsidiary of Ashok Leyland, which can cover 150 km on a single charge and 75 km after opportunity charging.

In total, BMTC is supposed to add 1,521 electric buses to its fleet but has only managed to add 390 to the fleet.

Wait for Nimbus app

BMTC has failed to launch its Nimbus app as per the previously announced schedule of January 26. The corporation had previously announced the delay in the launch was caused by technical issues. Launching of the app will allow for live-tracking of buses and easy planning of routes for passengers. The digitalisation of its services will also allow bus stands to get the public display boards to function to inform passengers about the arrival and departure of buses.

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Metro to Challaghatta, BIEC soon

Mass transport connectivity on Nelamangala and Mysuru roads are set to get a boost as metro work for the same is nearing completion. According to a Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) newsletter, the stretch between Manjunath Nagar to Madavara (BIEC) is now 87.81 per cent complete. Once the work is completed, the green line metro network will be expanded from Nagasandra to BIEC. Realtors say that this will be a big push for property development.

"Currently, residents of Nelamangala who have to hop on to a metro have to travel till Nagasandra. Once the BIEC station is ready, it will be an easy commute. Many people are now shifting to Nelamangala to buy properties as they are quite affordable. Travelling was the only issue. However, with the metro extension, one can easily reach various parts of the city. As BIEC is on the junction of NICE Road, even those travelling via NICE Road can park their vehicles to take the metro," said a property developer.

City folks who plan to buy properties are now eyeing areas in and around Nelamangala. Reaching Nelamangala has become easier now. The first reason is the construction of the Nelamangala expressway. This six-lane access-controlled road, along with the four-lane toll free service road, has made travel between Nelamangala and other parts of the city more feasible.

A lot of people are shifting towards Nelamangala and its suburbs like Sondekoppa Road as they can easily commute to the city for work.

There are also proposals to extend the metro beyond BIEC. Additionally, Nelamangala has multiple connecting roads - Hassan, Tumakuru, Airport (via Madhure), and NICE roads. This is helping people to relocate there as they can travel to and beyond Bengaluru without getting stuck in traffic.

People staying in the heart of Bengaluru are opting to relocate to Nelamangala as they can build comfortable houses away from city traffic. There are also a number of industries located in and around here, resulting in not just a realty boom but also a job boom.

Meanwhile, the extension to Challaghatta on Mysuru Road is expected to happen soon. A senior BMRCL official said, "Currently, we are in the process of commissioning the line extension between Kengeri to Challaghatta, and this was the reason behind the temporary suspension of metro services between Mysore Road and Kengeri on the purple line between January 27 and 30."

A property developer said, "Mysuru Road is becoming a preferred destination for realty, thanks to the metro network. Many are shifting beyond Kengeri as it will now be easier to travel in a metro to CBD."

— Prakash VL

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Rush for 'smart homes' in Bannerghatta-Jigani

With many companies restarting work-from-office, people are opting to stay closer to their workplaces. Areas in and around Bannerghatta Road are getting premium smart homes. The residents occupying these homes say that they are designed keeping the future in mind. These smart homes have all the amenities that are required for a comfortable stay and work-from-home.

Sandeep Kumar, a techie staying near Bannerghatta Road, said, "The area is poised for a higher growth as metro work is in full swing. Once the metro opens, travelling without dust, pollution, and traffic will become easier."

A realtor said that Jigani Road, like Bannerghatta, is also seeing higher growth. "There is a great demand for properties and homes in and around Bannerghatta," he said.

Increase in industrial, warehousing space

Meanwhile, reports say that there is an increase in industrial and warehousing space, which has witnessed absorption of more than 46 million (mn) sq ft in 2022. This includes over 36 mn sq ft from tier I cities and over 10 mn sq ft from tier II and III cities. India witnessed a fresh supply of 47 mn sq ft in 2022, of which 34 mn sq ft was from tier I cities and close to 13 mn sq ft was from tier II and III cities, according to data from international real estate advisory firm Savills India.

The new projects delivered with improved specifications and high quality environmental, health, and safety (EHS) standards. Pune and Bengaluru saw absorptions at 13 and 12 per cent, respectively, while tier II and III cities accounted for 22 per cent. "Tier II and tier III cities witnessed 10 mn sq ft absorption in 2022. These cities are poised to gain further momentum in 2023 and 2024 with e-commerce, retail, and 3PL firms capitalising on consumption-driven growth and pushing the demand for warehousing space. The overall industrial and warehousing space stock in tier I cities stood at 300 mn sq ft at the end of 2022 and is expected to reach 342 mn sq feet in 2023," the report said.

> **"We expect an increased supply of manufacturing space with improved specifications**
>
> — Srinivas N, Managing Director, Industrial and Logistics, Savills India

Investments-manufacturing, warehousing

The industrial and logistics sector is continuing to garner investor interest, although there was some impact on the financials of the asset class in the second and beginning of third quarters of the year due to rising construction costs, geopolitical issues such as the Russia -Ukraine war and rise in interest rates.

However, the sector was quick to bounce back to normalcy as the input costs stabilised and developers were able to optimise and adjust to the changing factors. In terms of investments, the warehousing sector raised private equities to the tune of $1.5 billion in 2022.

The market is likely to witness increased interest from investors in this asset class in 2023 owing to inherent domestic demand and expansion of distribution networks in tier II and III cities, the report stated.

Manufacturing has emerged as one of the high growth sectors in India. It has seen further traction after the rolling out of the PLI scheme with major multinational players announcing their investment plans in the country.

"We expect an increased supply of manufacturing space with improved specifications to meet the requirements of manufacturing occupiers. The rapidly expanding and highly competitive e-commerce market has fuelled the growth of industrial, logistics and warehousing since the last two years. The industrial and logistics sector is likely to see absorption of 40+ mn sq ft in 2023.

This demand for space could stem from emerging Tier II and III Cities, growing demand for urban warehousing, and a major transformation in the Indian manufacturing sector backed by PLIs and efficient multi model connectivity plan for local and global distribution," said Srinivas N, Managing Director, Industrial and Logistics, Savills India.

— Prakash VL

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No space to go out

These Shivajinagar locals are fed up with haphazard parking outside their homes

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Meenakshi Koil Street Cross in Shivajinagar have been struggling to take out their two-wheelers or park them in front of their houses for the past two years. This is due to unauthorised and haphazard parking of hundreds of vehicles on both sides of the narrow road throughout the day.

"We are unable to take out our vehicles due to the parking of two-wheelers in front of our houses by people working in nearby areas. I have been working as a priest at Kaliamman temple for years. It has become difficult for devotees to visit the temple due to this issue," said Thrilok Kumar, a resident of the area.

Kumar said residents on the street own only around 10 two-wheelers, but they cannot not park their own vehicles as the road is always occupied by hundreds of other vehicles. He said he is unable to organise mass feeding of people on special occasions because of this.

E Selva, another resident, said that he was threatened by people parking vehicles outside his house when he went to question them about the same. "There is no control on illegal parking here. I have been residing here for many years. The other issue is the lack of lights on this road. It is dangerous for us to come out at night as some miscreants are misusing this street. Police don't visit this street either," he said.

Expressing similar opinions, M S Mani, also a resident, said that illegal parking has been troubling pedestrians in the area as well. "I have been living here for a long time. I could not afford to question the people for parking their vehicles in front of my house. There are occasions where I have to struggle a lot to open the door to go out," he said.

Illegally parked two-wheelers can be spotted in 3rd Cross near the Kaliamman Temple in Shivajinagar

> **"I have been living here for a long time. There are occasions where I have to struggle a lot to open the door to go out**
>
> – MS Mani, resident of the area

Samiulla Syed, owner of Taj Printers, a printing shop in the area, appealed to the authorities concerned to resolve the problem. Four people work for him, and three of them have two-wheelers. They often have no space to park outside the shop.

He said some two-wheeler owners misbehaved with him once when he asked them not to park in front of his shop. "They asked me where they should park their vehicles if not here. I do not know when this problem will be fixed on a permanent basis," he said.

Meanwhile, the Shivajinagar Traffic Police Inspector assured to look into the matter. He said he would depute traffic police to the spot and take measures to stop haphazard parking of vehicles.

CM grabs mic from seer

An incident of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai grabbing the microphone from a religious seer after the latter flagged Bengaluru's 'severe civic issues' came to light on Friday.

Photos of the incident, which took place on Thursday, have gone viral on social media.

Eshwaranandapuri Swami from the Hosadurg Kanaka Peetha, while addressing the gathering, said that there is waterlogging due to heavy rains at many places in Bengaluru.

"There is no permanent solution to this. I fail to understand why the authorities don't get into action and solve these issues. Don't they understand what the problem is when it rains? Many Chief Ministers said they will find a permanent solution. But I won't agree with just assurances," the seer said.

At this point, a visibly upset Bommai grabbed the mic from the seer and started making clarifications.

"I don't give assurances just like that. The funds have been released and work is under progress. I don't make shallow promises," CM Bommai said. **–IANS**

BBMP's measure against 'sinking' B'luru roads

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Bengaluru faces a peculiar problem as sections of roads gradually 'sink'. One of the major reasons for this is that utility providers are digging up roads on one side and fixing it after work. Over a period of time, dug up portions start caving in. Now, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has told utility providers that even if a road is dug up on one side, they need to resurface the entire road.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "If BWSSB, BESCOM, or KPTCL requires our permission for laying pipes or wires, we are providing permission only on the condition that the entire road has to be resurfaced once the work is done. If they fail to resurface the road completely, then we will take action against the jurisdictional engineer and utility provider. Usually, BESCOM takes up underground cable laying work using the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) method for which permission is granted."

Road digging is only permitted in certain instances, according to the BBMP

Meanwhile, as elections are approaching, the BBMP has begun to asphalt many roads. "We had banned road cutting across the city in October. However, as we have taken up resurfacing of roads under the Naragothana scheme, we have asked various utility providers to take up road digging work so that once roads are re-laid there is no more digging. However, I want to clarify that road digging is permitted only at those places where Naragothana is being taken up. The ban on road digging will continue on other roads," he added.

Non-cooperation from tahsildar

The BBMP alleged that a tahsildar has not been cooperating in the encroachment drive. Nath said 137 properties were surveyed earlier and the respective department has been asked to take up a survey of an additional 139 properties. This may take a fortnight. The encroachment removal drive will be taken up in February or March. "While most of the tahsildars are working with us, one is not cooperating. Hence, we are writing to the Bengaluru Urban Deputy commissioner on the issue," said Nath.

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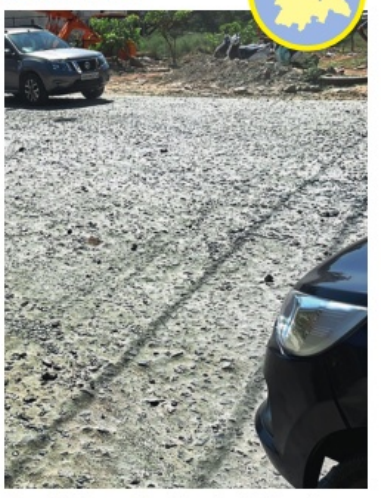
Sewage flow
Dispensary Road

Sewage has been flowing in Dispensary Road for many days.

Abandoned car
BTM 2nd stage

This car has been abandoned on the footpath in 29th Main, BTM 2nd stage for two years.

Bad road
Gubbalala



The BDA road in front of Liberty Square Apartments, Gubbalala is not asphalted. It is dusty and uneven.

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Big tech blackhole

A tech firm in the city laid off over 400 freshers just a few days ago: for incompetence, the firm clarified thereafter.

The layers of the tech onion are revealing grave concerns as it peels itself out of desperation; proprietors are eager to see how much potential revenue the core holds.

How absurd the aforesaid. Is tech still the so-called economic promise touted to lift millions out of poverty in emerging economies?

Shifty politicians continue to claim tech is the new age deliverance that shall free humans. This is of course for certain opportune and timely kickbacks in return from big tech proprietors: a quid-pro-quo. Now it appears even such kickbacks cannot hold tech firms together; so, dismissal of the crew has commenced.

Perhaps digital tech could have salvaged the neoliberal economy, collapsing on itself now, if not for the exploitative agenda it is pursuing in emerging economies of the global south — disenfranchising regional demographics and consumers alike.

Moreover, the impact of big tech on pedagogy, learning and the skills of graduates, is largely overlooked though we are constantly reminded of the shortfall in tech's economic promise, instance after instance, such as the aforementioned layoffs over incompetence of new recruits.

Furthermore, the telling Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) points to the appalling state of public education infrastructure in the world's most populous nation. From lack of drinking water to dwindling access to computers and other bare necessities, in a world already turned upside down by the pandemic, children of economically backward parents are further strangled by simply put, a lack of care or concern.

Ain't it a travesty that one needs a magnifying glass, or a trained professional media guide, to glean the factual goings-on in the age of information technology? Wasn't tech supposed to make stuff easier to glean?

It is as though anything but the truth will do in contemporary media discourse; more distorted the information, the merrier. Something to keep the curious cats in the social media echo chamber engaged, nevertheless. What about old fashioned truth, sir, you ask; No chance, eh?

The tragedy is, slowly but steadily curious social media cats are being led by clever tech mice to an information blackhole while technocrats amass billions — a point of no return whilst good old trusted media, one of the strongest pillars of democracy, are wiped out.

Digital tech holds tremendous potential to change our lives for the better no doubt. More importantly, digital innovation can transform the lives of the impoverished, marginalised and vulnerable if (and this 'if' is crucial) it is held primarily as a public common and not controlled by an oligopoly.

Digital tech can only transform the world with earnest intent. If we are to factor in what is unfolding now, it seems as though earnest intent was missing all through, masked in the facade of grandstanding and one-upmanship of a diminishing line of proprietors while the imminent fallout was being pushed further and further at the cost of society.

The question remains: was it stupid of us to forgo tried and tested ways of doing business altogether that are now almost non-existent and forgotten; as anybody and everybody were told to embrace and piggyback on the tech bandwagon? Could not we have anticipated big tech's downfall and held on to our old ways until we could trust it wholly, instead?

That said, our world, especially in the global south, should not get sucked consciously into the now raging big tech blackhole as the digital economy's meteoric rise and terrible fall unravel in the minuscule timeline of a decade, layoffs and all.

Ongoing shenanigans of the shapeshifting big tech proprietors in collusion with the establishment, blocking free expression as recently as a BBC documentary on the sly and unending tweaks at Twitter by 'Mr Tweet' himself notwithstanding, one has to admit, so much has been wasted in the name of digital technology salvaging democracy in the twenty-first century, courtesy big tech now hand in glove with the world's powerful.

In the time of covid-19, we were told big tech was raking in record profits and how it has insulated itself from the challenges of economic uncertainties triggered by unforeseen calamities, manmade or natural.

Now what in the universe, you wonder, has occurred that you have to layoff staff without even a proper notice; these employees helped you build vast personal empires and lord over millions of peoples' personal information for over a decade, operating in most geographies with no regulations whatsoever, except in home turfs or Europe, dangling the promise of tech to millions.

Now, regulation, in effect, is only of truth based on facts, you see. As this plays out, the west should take into account ground realities, despite geopolitical and economic/market considerations, and help transfer dividends of tech to emerging nations in earnest, and sooner.

Put airport corridor in the fast lane too

Mobility experts want KSR Bengaluru City – Devanahalli corridor to be prioritised

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Trains on airport line can also cater to busy areas of the city

After the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd (K-RIDE) invited tender for corridor 4 of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) project a week ago, city-based experts say it would have been prudent to prioritise the airport corridor first.

Corridor 4 will connect Heelalige in south Bengaluru to Rajanukunte in the north. Bids have been invited for the work of design and construction of 8.96 km of elevated viaduct at-grade track formation of length 37 .920 km. As per the tender document, the last date for bid submission is April 27.

While city-based rail activists and mobility experts have welcomed the step, they opine that K-RIDE should have prioritised the airport corridor first as Bengaluru airport is one of the fastest-growing airports, and with terminal 2 in operation, the traffic is only going to increase over the coming days.

They say the expedition of the KSR Bengaluru City – Devanahalli corridor, as recommended by various authorities in the past will also cater to busy areas of the city such as Malleshwaram, Yeshwantpur and Yelahanka before it reaches the airport.

"While the airport corridor project under Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is also in progress, it will cater to only a fraction of the city, on the outskirts. While BMRCL's 58-km airport corridor touches the eastern and northern edges of the city, the airport corridor of suburban rail is planned right at the heart of Bengaluru. Moreover, the City and Yeshwantpur Stations also have BMTC bus stands and Metro stations nearby. Thus, the entire functional metro network will have access to the airport," said a city-based urban mobility expert.

Activists say K-RIDE can split the first corridor project into two parts and expedite the process.

"Corridor one can be split into two parts and can be taken up at war footing. The stretch from Yelahanka to the Airport should be done first. Since Corridor 4, for which the tender has been floated, will be connecting Heelalige to Yelahanka, taking up and completing the said portion of the first corridor simultaneously will ensure smooth connectivity up to the airport. The stretch between Yelahanka and the city center can be taken up later," Rajkumar Dugar, founder, Citizen for Citizen.

Delay in project

The suburban rail project has been delayed in the past due to land acquisition issues. While the project with four corridors was cleared by the Union government in October 2020 at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 15,767 crore, work on the first corridor is yet to begin. This is despite the Centre's recommendation to prioritise the KSR Bengaluru City – Devanahalli and complete it within three years. The rest of the corridors were allotted six years from the sanction date.

> **"Corridor one can be split into two parts. The stretch from Yelahanka to airport should be done first**
>
> –Rajkumar Dugar, Citizen for Citizen

Under this project, four corridors are envisioned to be constructed with a total length of 148 km.

Notably, the Heelalige to Rajanukunte stretch is the second of four corridors for which tenders have been called. K-RIDE has already issued a work order for civil works of corridor 2 from Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara.

The tractor factor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

order from the higher officials, the ones on the ground are not implementing it well. We see a number of tractors being used for waste collection and civic works on a daily basis. These tractors are meant to be reserved for agricultural work. By using the vehicles for other purposes, it isn't just creating traffic problems in the city but also creating a problem for the people in agriculture who might find it harder to access them," said V Srivatsa, a resident of Kanakapura Road.

Some citizens also informed BM that BBMP, other civic agencies as well as some private contractors have been using these vehicles around the city.

"Despite there being an order from the department, we can still see these vehicles on a daily basis. These are used for collecting debris and other commercial purposes despite the guidelines. Most of the time, the vehicles also do not have a number plate," said another resident of Kanakapura Road.

Traffic police say that they have been trying to curb the movement of tractors, as well as heavy transport vehicles already, especially during peak traffic hours.

"We have received the order from the special commissioner. Already, there is a ban on HTVs during peak hours but on top of that, there is a separate order for the tractor vehicles as they restrict traffic movement. We are trying to prohibit it, especially during peak traffic hours. It is an ongoing exercise since there are still complaints about the same despite the ban,"

said Kuldeep Kumar R Jain, deputy commissioner of police (traffic), west division.

TG Halli reservoir work gets another deadline

New deadline given is May; BWSSB says German equipment yet to come

Once work is completed, water will reach around 35 villages in West B'luru

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Having missed multiple deadlines in the past, the Thippagondanahalli (TG Halli) reservoir work, which is still in progress, is set to miss yet another target -- the fifth this time. While the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) had set March 2023 as its latest deadline, it has now been extended to May.

"The majority of the rejuvenation work is already completed. We are expecting it to be over by May this year. As soon as the work is over in May, water will start reaching around 35 villages in West Bengaluru," said Rajashekhar A, BWSSB chief engineer-maintenance.

Officials say this is due to the delay in receiving equipment for the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Water Treatment Plant from abroad. The board had ordered a set of equipment from Germany, Italy and Sweden. While the orders from Italy and Sweden have arrived, the German equipment is still awaited.

The delayed equipment will be used to filter the reservoir water through the process of ozonation, to ensure higher-quality potable water. Normally, water is purified through chlorination. The technology that will be used at TG Halli is the next level of water purification.

"We are getting the ozonation equipment from Germany. We have not received the machine yet. However, we have been informed that the machine has already been shipped and it is on the way. Once it arrives, we will install and commission the project. We have been informed that the shipment is in transit and should reach us by the end of this month," said Rajashekhar.

> **The shipment is in transit and should reach us by the end of this month**
>
> –Rajashekhar A, BWSSB chief engineer-maintenance

Interestingly, BWSSB had earlier set December 2021 as its first deadline to complete the rejuvenation of the reservoir. The deadline was first pushed to March 2022 and later to September 2022, December 2022 and March 2023. However, the work is yet to get over.

Officials say the work has also been delayed due to the incessant rainfall this monsoon, forcing them to push the deadline.

"We had set March 2023 as the deadline, but there were inevitable reasons that caused the delay. We received unexpected high rainfall in September and also November. The work was impacted during that time," said a senior official from BWSSB.

Once the project is completed, BWSSB will be able to pump 1.7 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic feet) of water to the city. TG Halli reservoir is expected to quench the thirst of many villages in the western part of the city. The board started the rejuvenation work of the reservoir in 2019 with Rs 286 crore in its kitty. An STP and a water treatment plant are also part of the rejuvenation plan.

Peek into criminal minds, soon

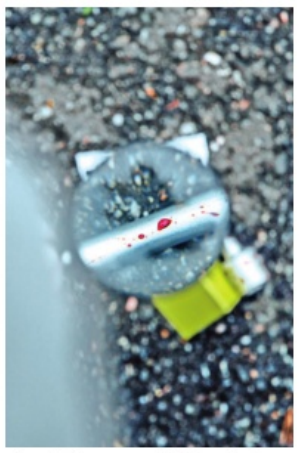
The National Forensic Sciences University in Karnataka is all set to become reality with Home Minister Amit Shah laying the foundation stone on Saturday.

Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said, "The Forensic University to come up at Dharwad will be funded by the Centre. As there is a lack of trained manpower, the forensic university will play a key role in providing the latest technology."

Jnanendra said that Karnataka was supporting the project by providing a 50-acre land for such a facility.

Currently, a National Forensic Science University is established in Gandhinagar, Gujarat with a branch in Delhi.

According to academicians, cyber forensics can play a key role as cybercrimes have seen a spurt post Covid. Dr K Jaishankar (Founder and Principal Director of Criminology and Crime Sciences, IICSS) said, "We need to understand the inter-relationship between cyber criminology, legislative framework in relation to cybercrimes and security measures to counter cyber threats, cyber forensics and in the end, work towards a better institutional arrangement for effectively delivering justice to victims.



6,800 fake college certificates found

The CCB has unearthed a fake certificate racket and recovered 6,800 fake degree certificates of prestigious universities. These institutes were selling these certificates for a price of Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000.

"We have got specific information about fake educational consultants, correspondent colleges and coaching centres where the accused were cheating students of providing certificates without any exam," said a CCB official.

The major challenges faced by forensic sector in the country include: increasing the capacities in forensic science laboratories to be able to analyse cases referred for timely investigation, technology upgrade in the forensic science laboratories, making available trained manpower in the laboratories, and Quality Assurance and Quality Control of the Forensic Science Laboratories.

> **The University will be funded by the Centre**
>
> –Araga Jnanendra, Karnataka Home Minister

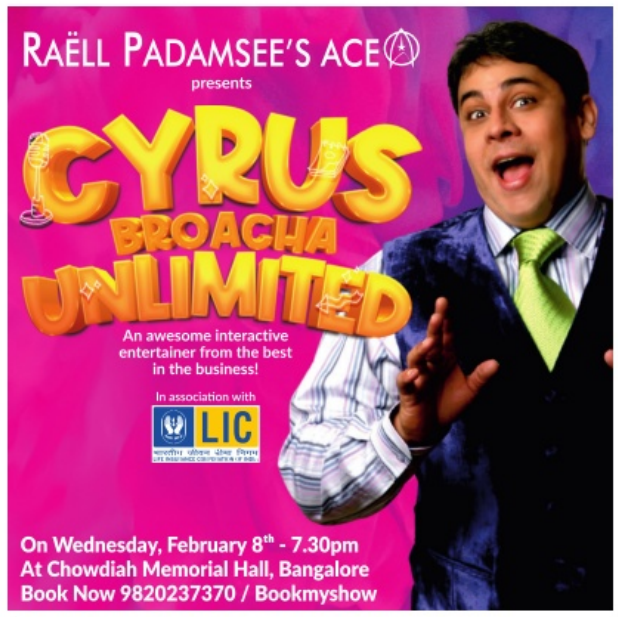
Professor YSR Murthy (Vice-Chancellor, RV University) said that although there are legislations in place, they have not been able to match up to the rate at which cybercrime was increasing. Victim assistance needs to be made more accessible, sensitive and personable

— Sahana Sridhar

B'luru tops for bizwomen

Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai have been featured as among the top 50 global cities for women entrepreneurs providing a beneficial business environment for them, a report showed on Friday.

According to Dell Technologies 2023 Women Entrepreneur Cities (WE Cities) Index, Bengaluru ranked fifth in the top ten operating environments list. **IANS**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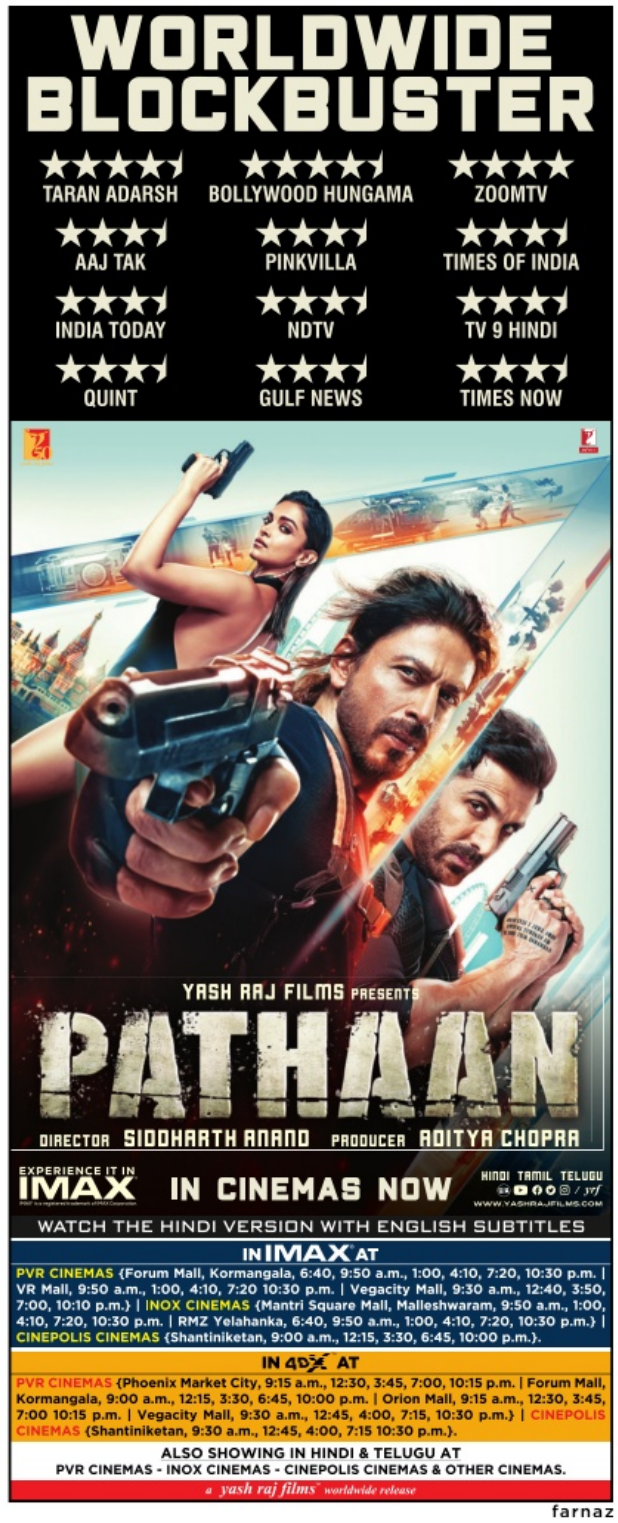
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STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

IN FORWARD MOTION

A grey heron flies over Sarakki Lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Unresolved: Safety of pedestrians

Encroachment of footpaths by street vendors and delivery valets at various locations in city irks citizens

The pedestrians in New BEL Road are facing a number of challenges while using the road from Kuvempu Circle to HP petrol pump as the street vendors have taken up the entire space on the footpaths. According to them, there is no space for them to walk on the footpath which is causing them a lot of inconveniences.

"There is no space left on the footpath for pedestrians. As the street vendors have taken up all the space we are forced to use the main road for walking which is quite dangerous," said Anand K, a commuter.

According to Prakash Kumar, another commuter, it is not just the street vendors but also the delivery valets who use the footpath for parking their vehicles.

"They should understand that footpaths are not built for running business or parking vehicles but for people to walk. The police should take strict action against these people as they are causing inconveniences to a lot of people," he said.

The footpaths on Residency Road are not in a good condition either. The pedestrians said that the footpaths are used by school vans to park their vehicles.

Aastha Tiwari, a resident of the area told Bangalore Mirror that the school vans have created a mess out of the footpaths.

"They have used up all the available space to park their vehicles and now there is no space left for the pedestrians to walk. There are huge jams also caused because of this," he said.

Other residents added that no one seems to be concerned for the safety of the pedestrians.

"It is extremely difficult to walk and these footpaths are used by school children as well. They can get injured while trying to walk through the small space," said Vasanth Krishnaswamy, another resident of the area.

Pedestrians are forced to walk on the road as vendors occupy footpath space

The pedestrians using the footpath on General Thimmiah road are also irritated with the same issue.

"As the road is completely blocked by the food vendors, there is so much congestion that people cannot move ahead," said Naveen KS, another commuter.

Other residents added that the area is poorly maintained when it comes to cleanliness.

"Here, people also throw garbage on the footpath which makes the entire area very dirty and unhygienic," said M Manjunath, another commuter.

Meanwhile, a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official told BM that they will look into the matter.

-Shreyashi Mukherjee

DID YOU KNOW?

Brookefield in Bengaluru was established in the late 19th century. The neighbourhood was primarily set up as a settlement for the Eurasians. Currently, it nurtures offices of IT companies like IBM and SAP. It's surrounded by areas like Whitefield, Varthur, Immadihalli, Kadugodi, Kannamangala, Siddapura, Nagondanahalli, Ramagondanahalli and more. The neighbourhood is connected with Bengaluru city through a major four-lane road, which is known as Varthur Road. Located in south Bengaluru, it has good connectivity through other roadways like ITPL Main Road, HAL Old Airport Road and Kundanahalli Main Road. It is quite known as a posh residential area in the city. The place saw a boom in private construction in the late 1990s, which surged during 2002 and later.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAP THE CHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

What are the ways to make sure the city's garbage management system is working well?

Reet Bhatia, BM Reader
The garbage management system can be made better by segregating waste and not by dumping it inside the city limits wherever there is space. The dump yard should be outside the city limits as it ruins the beautification of the city.

Samyuktha Hosmutt, BM Reader
The garbage segregation should start in each and every household and then every area can be cleaned. The garbage collection team should be monitored and tracked till they reach outside the city.

Anoushka Aristotle, BM Reader
The garbage collection team just like the households need to be educated and taught in some firm manner to not throw garbage in any available spot around the city as this is bothersome for all residential buildings and homes. The team has to be monitored.

Rachel Lucas, BM Reader
The garbage management system can be made better through proper monitoring of teams and collection of garbage at least twice a day. They need to put dustbins in every 500 metres or so because most people require monitoring so that no littering happens.

Niyati Agarwal, BM Reader
Each garbage disposal van should be monitored to make sure that they do not leak garbage liquids or throw garbage along the way. The management for garbage collection and disposal is inefficient, especially if they are not trained to do the required work.

Sudhanvi S, BM Reader
The garbage management system needs to be more educated and aware. They need to stop throwing garbage in empty spaces around the city and they need to have more women workforce on their teams as they are super efficient in terms of segregation of waste.

SPEAK TO US

How do you suggest government ensures the rapidly expanding city does not lose its greenery? If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: If you are someone who has a high intake of fibre, you need a higher water intake to make your body work more efficiently

Antibacterial soaps may contain triclosan, which, in the long run, can cause hormonal imbalance

Double trouble

Here's an easy guide on how to reduce double chin

Having a double chin, or even a triple chin, is pretty common. It's just a layer of excess fat under the skin that causes the skin to fold, giving the appearance of an extra chin. People usually worry about how to reduce double chin because it may seem unsightly. If you've noticed extra fat below your chin lately, or want to reduce the appearance of your double chin, read on for more.

What Causes A Double Chin?

Having a double chin may be associated with weight gain, but there can be other causes such as:

- Facial structure
- Poor posture
- Ageing skin
- Genetics

Tip: Note that drastic weight loss can also result in a double chin.

Exercises To Reduce Double Chin

There are a number of facial exercises you can perform to tone your face and jawline, thus reducing your double chin.

Ball Exercise

Take a tennis ball or a similar sized ball. Place it under your chin, and hold it against your throat by lowering your face. Press the chin down tightly on the ball. Hold the position for five seconds, ease up, and repeat up to five times. You can perform this set twice daily.

Bottom Jaw Jut Or Straight Jaw Jut

Keep your back and shoulders straight. Tilting your head upwards and without moving your neck, push your lower jaw forward as much as you can. Hold the position for five seconds and then go back to the starting one. Repeat five-10 times daily.

Neck Stretch

Stand or sit straight. Now, simply tilt your head back and look up at the ceiling. Feel your chin stretch, and hold the position for up to 10 seconds. Relax the jaw and return to the starting position. Repeat 10-15 times daily.

Tongue Stretch Or Lion's Yawn

You can do this exercise standing or sitting, while working or lounging about the house! Just open your mouth really wide, and stick your tongue out as far as you can. Feel the muscles in your jaw and chin stretch, and hold the position for 10 seconds. Repeat up to 10 times for a set.

Pigeon Face

Hold either side of your lower jaw (right below the ears) with the thumb and index finger of one hand. Move your head forwards and backwards, keeping the hand steady. Feel the strain on the jaw and chin muscles. Repeat 10-15 times.

Neck Rotations

Stretch your neck as much as you comfortably can on either side. Do 10 repetitions every day. You can also do neck rotations, stretching and rotating your neck forwards and backwards, and side-to-side to target all the muscles in the neck, jaw, and chin.

X-O Exercise

Engage the muscles of your cheeks and jaws as you repeatedly spell X-O. Do three sets of 12 repetitions each to burn fat in the face and chin.

Pucker Up

Keeping back and shoulders straight, tilt the head up to look at the ceiling. Now pucker your lips as though you are kissing the ceiling. This will stretch the jaw and chin muscles. Return to the starting position and repeat 10-15 times.

Tip: Vary the exercises to work different muscles and get better results.

Home Remedies To Reduce Double Chin

Apart from performing face exercises regularly, try these home remedies to target and lose chin fat.

Olive Oil

Take a teaspoon of olive oil and warm it a bit. Massage onto the jaw and neck gently. Leave it overnight for the vitamin E and other antioxidants to nourish and tighten the skin.

Cocoa Butter

Rub some cocoa butter onto the chin and throat before bedtime or showering. This will improve skin elasticity.

Green Tea

Switch to or add green tea to your daily diet. This beverage is rich in antioxidants, can flush toxins out of the body, boosts metabolism and promotes weight loss. You can also chill the used teabags and place them on your face to detoxify and tighten the skin.

Wheat Germ Oil

Wheat germ oil massage will help tighten the skin in the chin area and also offer nourishment. Use gentle strokes to massage it in, going upwards from the base of the neck. Do this before sleeping and leave it overnight.

Chew Gum

Chew on some gum to work your jaw and neck muscles. This will tone your face, boost circulation, and tighten the skin. Avoid empty calories by going for sugar-free, non-flavoured chewing gum.

Egg White, Milk, Honey

Make a face mask using two egg whites and a tablespoon each of honey, milk, and lemon juice. Add a few drops of peppermint oil or any other essential oil to make it smell pleasant. Whisk all the ingredients together and apply onto the chin and neck. Rinse off using lukewarm water after 30-45 minutes. Doing this daily will help tighten and nourish the skin.

Vitamin E Capsules

Take the content of one or two vitamin E capsules in your palms. Rub together and massage your neck and chin using upward movements. Also boost your intake of vitamin E foods to improve skin elasticity.

Melons

Apply melon juice on your chin and neck using upwards motions. Allow to dry before rinsing off with water.

Tip: With the right diet and some home remedies, you're sure to see a difference in your jawline.

Medical Treatments

If you're very bothered about your double chin and wish to change your jawline drastically, you can go for medical treatments.

Mesotherapy

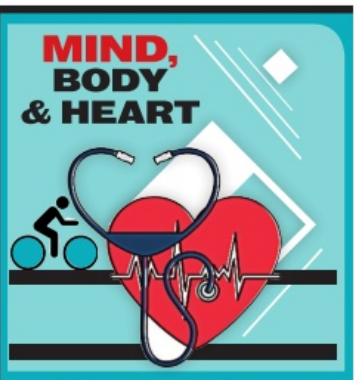
This is a minimally invasive procedure which involves injecting small amounts of fat dissolving compounds into the skin. This is better suited for localised areas.

Lipolysis

Also called liposculpture, this is a popular method of removing fat surgically. A liposuction cannula is inserted into the skin to remove excess fat and ensure a smooth, even appearance.

Tip: Try working on your diet and exercise regimen before considering medical treatments; speak to a doctor for the right advice.

— Kalwyna Rathod (Femina)



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I have this group of mum friends who I met through a toddler club and we've known each other for a few years. They like to go out and have a drink, and the conversation always turns to sex - how much they're having, what they're doing, how often they're doing it and so on. I've never considered myself a prude, but I don't get involved in the sex chat, a) because I find it a bit weird and b) because I think it's private and sharing intimate details feels disrespectful to my husband.
There's one woman in particular who really gives me a hard time. She says stuff to me in a jokey way, but it's starting to get on my nerves and feels a bit like bullying. I know she thinks I'm "holier than thou", but I don't care. The irony is, I probably have more sex than the lot of them put together and I'm very happy in that department.
How should I handle this? I do like seeing them, but I won't be made to feel bad because I won't cough up details about my sex life.

COLEEN SAYS

You're probably right – boasting about anything usually means there's an issue somewhere.
Don't feel bullied into joining in, just carry on the way you are. It's their issue. I can compare it to not being a drinker – I've been called "boring" many times at parties or people will say: "Why don't you let your hair down and have a drink?" I've always stood my ground and made it clear I don't like drinking alcohol. Or I'd say: " There are certain people, and your friend sounds like one of them, who will find something to pick at.
Say: "You may find me boring and think I'm a prude, but I'm just being respectful to my husband."
If they don't like your attitude would that be such a bad thing?

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Ahamed Sarfaraz S/O, Jahir Hussain R/o #51 M.r. Lane Manavarthipet Bangalore 560053 have changed my name to Ahmed Sarfaraz

I, RAJIV.M.DUSEJA, aged about 46 years, S/O MANOHARLAL.M.DUSEJA, residing at No.39, Nanjappa Road, Shantinagar, Bangalore – 560 027 do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows : My son PIYUSH RAJIV DUSEJA birth certificate bearing Reg.No.575384 dated 30.01.2010 has his name wrongly/incompletely mentioned as PIYUSH. His actual and correct name is PIYUSH RAJIV DUSEJA. Both the names pertains to my son and are one and the same person.

I, TABASSUM NASREEN SHAIKH LATIF, TABASUM ABDUL LATIF ANSARI, R/at No. 274 1st Floor Macckah Masjid Street Nehrupuram Thimmaiah Road Cross Bangalore -560051 have changed my name to TABASSUM NASREEN ABDUL LATIF ANSARI, vide affidavit dated: 27/1/2023 Before otary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, ANUPAMA ACHANTA, W/o ASHOK PASUMARTHI, R/o Flat-216, 3rd Floor, B-Block MBM Rohith Residency, Water Tank Kothanur Dinne, Nayak Layout, 8th Phase, J.P.Nagar Kothnur, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name as ANUPAMA PASUMARTHI vide affidavit dated 27.01.2023 sworn before notary Rajanna S.M, Bengaluru.

I, Rajendra Babu Lingam Balram S/o Muniswamy Lingam Pandit Balram R/at No.8, Elshaddai, 3rd Block, 4th A Street, Prakruthi Township, Babusapalya, Horamavu Agara B'luru-560043 have changed my name from Rajendra Babu Lingam Pandit Balram to Rajendra Babu Lingam Balram vide affidavit dated 25/01/2023 notary Uday Kumar K

I, Umadevi, spouse of No#14534938Y,Rank Ex-Hav Kasheppa Jokare, R/o #425/h, 1st,floor, 5thcross 9th E main road, hosahalli, vijayangar-40, have changed my name from umadevi to umadevi kasheppa jokare vide affidavit dated 25/01/2023 before Notary B.A.Lakshimnarayana Rao vijayanagar.

I, Shubhang Murthy alias Shubhang S/o Raghvendra Srinivas Murthy , residing at 407, 1st Cross, 1st Block , R T Nagar , Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560032, changed my name to Shubhang Murthy for all purposes in future.

I, WINNY CELINE SALDANHA, W/o, Philip Pais and Residing at No.13, Pearl Villa, 9th Main, Aditya Nagar, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore 560097 Karnataka India, have changed my name to WINNY PAIS vide Affidavit dated 21.01.2023 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

I, Mohammed Abbas afeez, S/o Mohammed Abbas R/o No. 8, 1st Main, BTM 1st Stage, Jayanagar, Bangalore 560029, have changed my name to Mohammed Abdul Hafeez vide affidavit Dt 23.01.2023 Sworn before Aravind Patil GG, Bangalore-11

I, Sanath Ganapathi Kamte R/o 76/9, 4th main, 15th cross, Malleshwaram-560003 Karnataka - taka have changed my minor son's name from Shriyan to Shriyan Kamte for all purposes

I, RAI PALLAVI JITENDRA KUMAR alias RAI PALLAVI JITENDRA, D/o JITENDRA RAI, resident at Flat No. B08 - 802, Floor 8, AWHO Sandeep Vihar, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560067, have changed my name as PALLAVI RAI vide affidavit dated 27.01.2023 sworn before notary Rajanna S.M, Bengaluru.

I, AMANDEEP R/a C/o Sham Sunder, No. 13, 3rd Cross, CKS Garden, Near Usha Fan Showroom, Shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru-560027 have changed my name to AMANDEEP KOSAL affidavit dt: 25.01.2023 notary N. Shankar, Bangalore.

I Mahumad Sayeed Makandar S/O, Nihalsha Makandar R/o Building No 156, 4th Floor, & 7th Main Anugraha Layout Phase 2, Bilekahalli Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to Sayeed Makandar

I Mujawar Mohamed Zia S/O, Bashir Mujawar R/o Apt# 41101, Tower 4, Nikoo Homes 1, Hegde Nagar Main Road, Thanisandra, Bangalore 560064 have changed my name to Zia Mujawar for all purposes.

I Ayesha Sayeed Makandar W/O, Sayeed Makandar R/o Building No 156, 4th Floor, & 7th Main Anugraha Layout Phase 2, Bilekahalli Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to Ayesha Makandar

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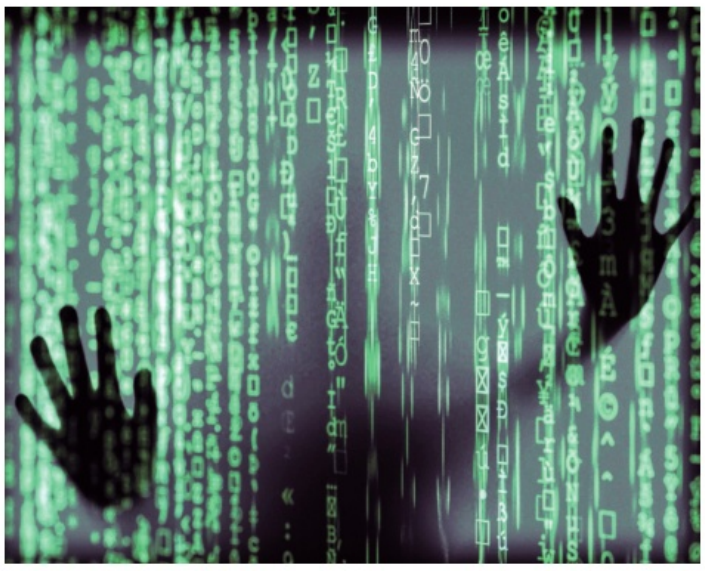
A dark business model

Crackdown on Hive ransomware operation reveals intricate cybercrime ecosystem



The US Justice Department's shutdown Thursday of the Hive ransomware operation -- which extorted some $100 million from more than 1,500 victims worldwide -- highlights how hacking has become an ultra-efficient, specialized industry that can allow anyone to become a cyber-shakedown artist.

Hive operated in what cybersecurity experts call a "ransomware as a service" style, or RaaS -- a business that leases its software and methods to others to use in extorting a target.

The model is central to the larger ransomware ecosystem, in which actors specialize in one skill or function to maximize efficiency.

According to Ariel Ropek, director of cyber threat intelligence at cybersecurity firm Avertium, this structure makes it possible for criminals with minimal computer fluency to get into the ransomware game by paying others for their expertise.

"There are quite a few of them," Ropek said of RaaS operations.

"It is really a business model nowadays," he said.

On the so-called dark web, providers of ransomware services and support pitch their products openly. At one end are the initial access brokers, who specialize in breaking into corporate or institutional computer systems.

They then sell that access to the hacker, or ransomware operator.

But the operator depends on RaaS developers like Hive, which have the programming skills to create the malware needed to carry out the operation and avoid counter-security measures.

Typically, their programs -- once inserted by the ransomware operator into the target's IT systems -- are manipulated to freeze, via encryption, the target's files and data.

The programs also extract the data back to the ransomware operator. RaaS developers like Hive offer a full service to the operators, for a large share of the ransom paid out, said Ropek.

"Their goal is to make the ransomware operation as turnkey as possible," he said.

When the ransomware is planted and activated, the target receives a message telling them how to correspond and how much to pay to get their data unencrypted.

That ransom can run from thousands to millions of dollars, usually depending on the financial strength of the target.

Inevitably the target tries to negotiate on the portal. They often don't get very far.

Menlo Security, a cybersecurity firm, last year published the conversation between a target and Hive's "Sales Department" that took place on Hive's special portal for victims.

In it, the Hive operator courteously and professionally offered to prove the decryption would work with a test file.

But when the target repeatedly offered a fraction of the $200,000 demanded, Hive was firm, insisting the target could afford the total amount. Eventually, the Hive agent gave in and offered a significant reduction -- but drew the line there.

"The price is $50,000. It's final. What else to say?" the Hive agent wrote. If a target organization refuses to pay, the RaaS developers hold a backup position: they threaten to release the hacked confidential files online or sell them.

Hive maintained a separate website, HiveLeaks, to publish the data. On the back end of the deal, according to Ropek, there are specialist operations to collect the money, making sure those taking part get their shares of the ransom.

Others, known as cryptocurrency tumblers, help launder the ransom for the hacker to use aboveground.

Thursday's action against Hive was only a modest blow against the RaaS industry.

There are numerous other ransomware specialists similar to Hive still operating.

The biggest current threat is LockBit, which attacked Britain's Royal Mail in early January and a Canadian children's hospital in December. In November, the Justice Department said LockBit had reaped tens of millions of dollars in ransoms from 1,000 victims.

And it isn't hard for Hive's operators to just start again.

"It's a relatively simple process of setting up new servers, generating new encryption keys. Usually there's some kind of rebrand," said Ropek. **AFP**

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Class action

Twitter Inc has asked a federal judge to toss out a proposed class action claiming the company targeted female employees during its recent mass layoffs, saying the plaintiffs failed to identify any actual discrimination.

Twitter said the December lawsuit fails to allege that company managers who decided which workers would lose their jobs used discriminatory criteria or made comments showing bias against women, in a filing in San Francisco federal court on Thursday.

Twitter laid off about 3,700 workers in November after the company was acquired by Elon Musk. The lawsuit claims the company axed 57% of its female workers compared to 47% of men. But the complaint "does nothing but quote a few stray tweets from Elon Musk that have no tie to any employment policy or practice at Twitter," the company's lawyers wrote in the motion.

Shannon Liss-Riordan, who represents the plaintiffs, said Twitter's claims lack merit. "We have a very serious case of sex discrimination based on a combination of striking statistical disparities between the proportion of women and men who were laid off, as well as biased views of the company's new owner, Elon Musk," Liss-Riordan said. **Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

AI FOR PROTEINS

Scientists have developed an AI system that can create artificial enzymes from scratch. In experiments, some of these enzymes worked as well as those found in nature, though their artificially created amino acid sequences differed from any known natural protein.

The experiment demonstrates that natural language processing, though it was developed to read and write language text, can learn some of the underlying principles of biology. Salesforce Research developed the AI program, called ProGen that uses next-token prediction to assemble amino acid sequences into artificial proteins. **ANI**

LOW-COST INVENTION

A British Sikh engineer behind an energy efficient manual washing machine for low-income groups around the world, inspired by his volunteering work in India, has won UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Points of Light Award. Navjot Sawhney, who set up his Washing Machine Project around four years ago, was honoured for his hand-cranked machine invention which can be operated in regions without electricity.

Sawhney described the experience of winning the award from Sunak, announced earlier this month, as "surreal" after the British Indian leader praised his "ingenuity and compassion". **PTI**

WORK IN PROGRESS

Tech giant Apple has reportedly halted the development of its in-house Wi-Fi chip "for a while".

Many investors are worried that the tech giant's efforts to develop its own Wi-Fi chip might negatively impact Broadcom's Wi-Fi chip business, analyst Ming-Chi Kuo wrote in a blogpost on Thursday.

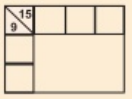
The iPhone maker's previous development for Wi-Fi solution was the Wi-Fi-only chip and not the Wi-Fi+Bluetooth combo chip. Making a Wi-Fi+Bluetooth combination chip is more difficult than making a Wi-Fi-only chip from a design perspective. **IANS**

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

Bob (5 mph) & Joe (4 mph) run toward each other starting 1 mile apart. How far will each run & how long will it take them to meet?

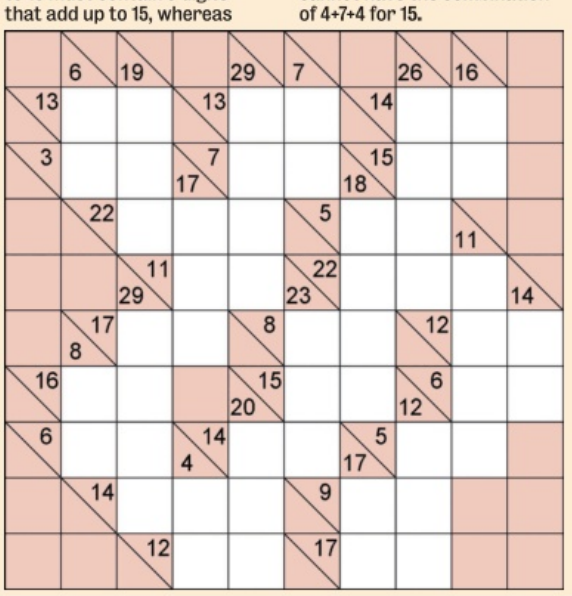
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

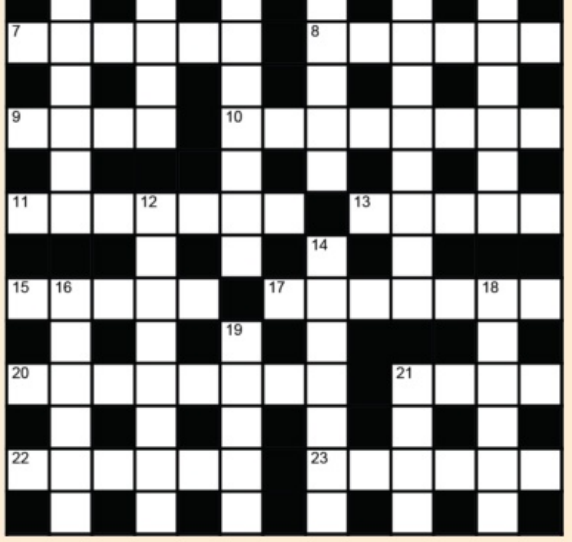


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Musical direction meaning 'lively' (6)
8 Sharp spines (6)
9 Urban area (4)
10 Solaces, soothes or comforts (8)
11 Gullible people (informal) (7)
13 Kid leather (5)
15 Occurrence (5)
17 Sewn surgically (7)
20 Whitens, blanches or lightens (8)
21 Online journal (4)
22 Protrude (3,3)
23 Pass through a sieve? (6)

DOWN

1 Environment or surroundings (6)
2 Not any (4)
3 Roman God or quicksilver (7)
4 Remain erect (5)
5 Capital of Hawaii (8)
6 In truth (6)
12 Marsupial from down under (8)
14 Defers or postpones; disappoints? (4,3)
16 Bravery (6)
18 Acted with show of feelings or pathos (6)
19 Snapshot (5)
21 One of Bangalore's oldest temples (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

QIPGVAO VX XHSIUVSIX PA VAOIAVHNX GIFVMI DHQ PFH-VGVAO URHNORU.

Linemaro

You are so cute, I forgot I am allergic to perfumes

Mindchow

If you want to be happy, be

Joke of the day

Smart soldier's thumb rule: Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than yourself

Loop

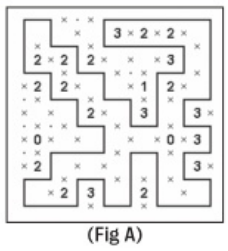
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

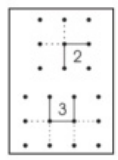
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

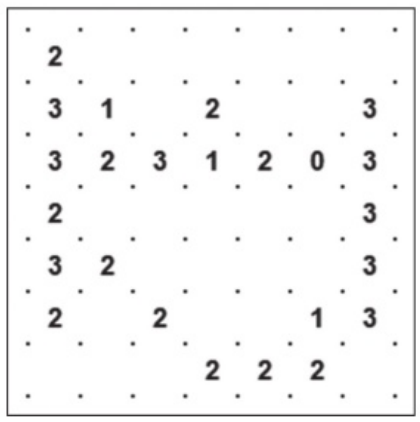
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



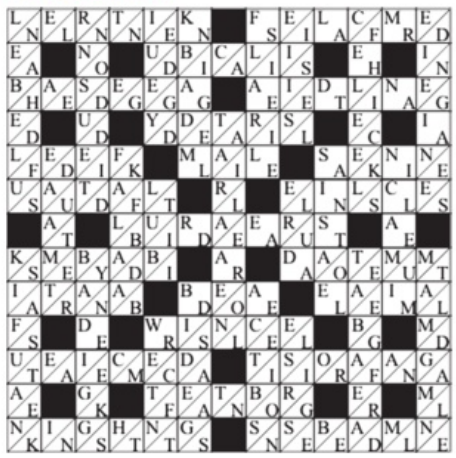
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



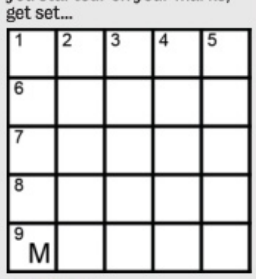
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

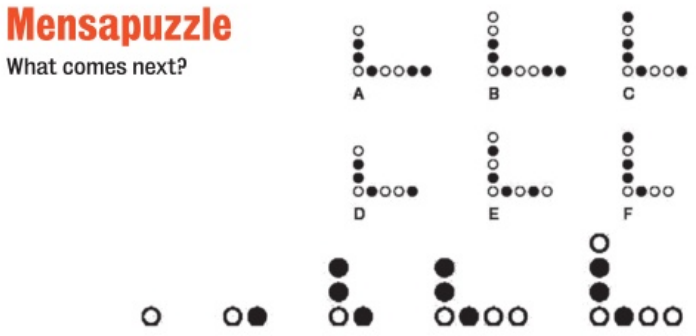
1 Scrap; 6 Helot;
7 On art; 8 NY alu;
9 US LLM

DOWN

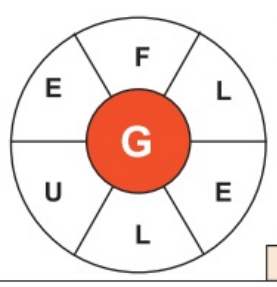
1 H must; 2 No cur;
3 To all; 4 Learn;
5 Splay

Mensapuzzle

What comes next?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		3	9		7	1		
	7		5				2	
1					8			4
2		4					9	8
3	6					7		2
4			8					3
	3				2		1	
		8	3		9	2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7
3 4 9 9

Medium = 8
2 2 4 8

Hard = 6
4 6 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

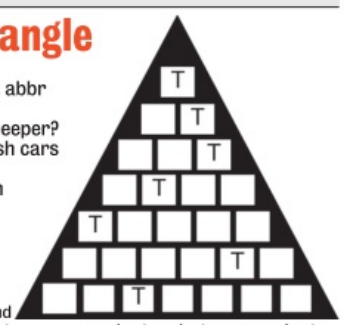
Differences: 1. Curtain is shorter. 2. Menu is smaller. 3. Plant is not as tall. 4. Collar is different. 5. Pocket is added to coat. 6. Earring is different.

Riddler

Using the chemical symbols, which word meaning unclear can be made from oxygen, boron, sulphur, copper, rhenium?

Alpha triangle

1 20th letter
2 Extraterrestrial. abbr
3 Gel
4 Problem with a peeper?
5 Adjuncts of British cars
6 Guarantee
7 Tidal river mouth



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

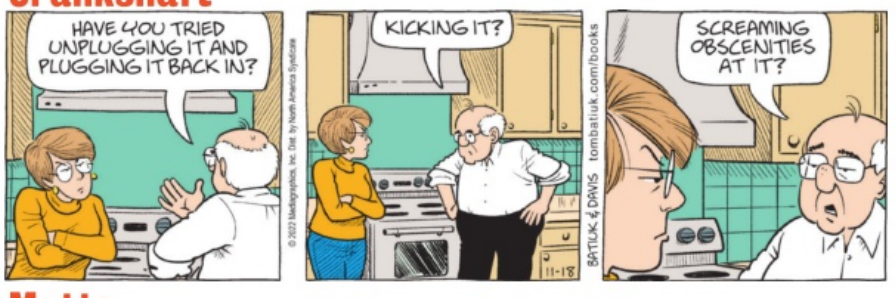
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

JUST SO YOU KNOW, DEAN DEFINITELY THINKS MAGIC IS REAL AND HAS BEEN SPENDING HIS AFTERNOONS LEARNING AT THE HOUDINI HUT.
I'M NOT SURPRISED. HE BELIEVED IN THE TOOTH FAIRY UNTIL NOT TOO LONG AGO.
WELL, THAT'S DIFFERENT. WHERE ELSE DO THE QUARTERS COME FROM?
OUR PARENTS?!
NOT THIS AGAIN.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


HAVE YOU TRIED UNPLUGGING IT AND PLUGGING IT BACK IN?
KICKING IT?
SCREAMING OBSCENITIES AT IT?
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Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, with the help of elders, you may become more confident. Your working efficiency may be increased. You can start new innovations in terms of business and work. You are likely to see smart gains after minimal investments. Opponents and rivals are now under control. You may help some needy people, which may increase your prestige.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today situations are mixed. You may be busy with your kids. You can expect a short trip related to their academics. You will also enjoy your romantic moments. Couples may hear good news in terms of childbirth. You may plan to go for outings with family or friends. People in jobs may plan for higher education to increase their skill set.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today may be a little disappointing as you may be impatient. You may not be able to focus on all of your goals. Investments in fixed assets are advised to be postponed for a while. It is advised to take care of your parents' health and avoid stress.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel energetic and courageous. You are likely to buy some important household items for your home or office. Your inner strength is likely to be helpful in completing your projects before deadlines. Disputes with siblings may be resolved. There may be some short trips related to which will increase your network.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, time is favourable. You may be able to control your expenditure. Your savings are likely to be increased. You may be busy at home. You may bring some artefacts for your house. You may also plan to renovate your office. There is an atmosphere of joy and happiness in the family. Lovebirds may likely plan to get married. Singles may find their soulmate. Kids will perform well.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today things are under control and you may feel some new energy which will give you confidence. You are likely to find a new way to push yourself towards success at work. Your parental business may reach new heights. Chronic illnesses are likely to be cured. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you have some dull feelings within yourself which can make you upset and impatient. You may face some minor health issues. It is advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours. You are advised to keep an eye on hidden enemies and opponents as you might be a victim of conspiracy. You should avoid arguments.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today may be good for your professional life. This is a time when you may be busy on the job front. You may become passionate about your work, which may bring you some mental tiredness. You may not be able to reach a family or social get-together on time. Your spouse may support you to maintain domestic harmony. Lovebirds may take important decisions in terms of marriage.

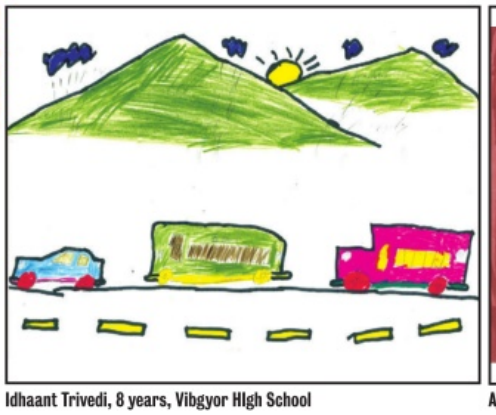
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you are blessed by the moon, which can make you happy. You may be busy at work. You are likely to increase your network in terms of work. With the help of elders, you will implement new plans into your work for getting success in the near future. You may plan to visit some close relatives or party with friends.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today there may be some dullness in you, which can make you sensitive and emotional. You may have some health-related issues too. It is advised to avoid rash driving. You are advised to keep an eye on hidden enemies and opponents as you might be a victim of conspiracy. Lovebirds need to keep patience and avoid arguments on worthless topics.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may try to analyse yourself and figure out your mistakes. Self-analysis will boost confidence at work. In partnerships, disputed matters are likely to be resolved. Warmth with your spouse is likely to be improved. Students may take quick decisions in terms of their career. Singles may find a good match.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, with the help of the moon, you may find happiness around you. Projects which were stopped will come back on track. Relationships with your spouse may be stronger. You may perform well at work. Singles are likely to find their soulmate. Lovebirds may plan to convert their relationship into marriage. You may get promotions. Job-seekers may find a good job.

KIDZONE



Idhaant Trivedi, 8 years, Vibgyor High School

Ayra Khatija, 9 years, Zenit Academy School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Bob travels d mi in t hr @ 5 mph
Joe travels 1-d mi in t hr @ 4 mph
d =t*5 Bob's distance
1-d=t*4 Joe's distance
1=t*(5+4). Set distances equal
t=1/9 hr Solve for mutual time
In 1/9 hr Bob travels 1/9*5=5/9 mi
In 1/9 hr Joe travels 1/9*4=4/9 mi
ANS: TIme=1/9 hour
Bob's distance=5/9 mile
Joe's distance=4/9 mile

BULL'S EYE
glee, GLEEFUL, glue, gulf, gull

RIDDLER
O-B-Se-Cu-Re

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	R	P
H	O	T	E	L
T	R	O	N	A
U	N	L	A	Y
M	U	L	L	S

STRIKE OUT

L	E	N	T	E	N	F	I	A	C	R	E
A	O	D	I	A	L	S	H	N			
B	A	D	E	G	G	A	I	D	I	N	G
E	D		Y	E	A	R	S	C	I		
L	E	E	K	L	I	E	S	K	I	N	
S	A	D	A	T		L	I	S	L	E	
K	E	B	A	B	R	D	A	T	U	M	
A	R	A	B	B	O	A	L	A	M	A	
F	D		W	I	N	C	E	B	D		
T	E	E	M	E	D	T	I	R	A	N	A
A	G	F	E	T	O	R	R	M			
N	I	G	H	T	S	N	E	E	D	L	E

QUICK

M	N	M	S	H	I					
V	I	V	A	C	E	T	H	O	R	N	S
L		R	R	A	N	D				
C	I	T	Y		C	O	N	S	O	L	E	S
E		U		D		L	E			
S	U	C	K	E	R	S		S	U	E	D	E
E	V	E	N	T		S	U	T	U	R	E	D
A		Y		P		L				
B	L	E	A	C	H	E	S		B	L	O	G
A	G		P		T			M			
J	U	T	O	U	T		F	I	L	T	E	R
O		R	O		O		U		T		
R	O	O		F		L	E	D			

MENSA PUZZLE
D: first add one black dot to the horizontal, then two black dots to the vertical, then one white dot to the vertical and then two white dots to the horizontal.

QUOTE UNCODE
Reading is sometimes an ingenious device for avoiding thought.

SUDOKU

5	4	3	9	2	7	1	8	6
8	7	6	5	4	1	3	2	9
1	9	2	6	3	8	5	7	4
2	1	4	7	5	3	6	9	8
7	8	5	2	9	6	4	3	1
3	6	9	1	8	4	7	5	2
4	2	1	8	7	5	9	6	3
9	3	7	4	6	2	8	1	5
6	5	8	3	1	9	2	4	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, ET, Set, Style, Tyres, Surety, Estuary.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 – 9 + 3 + 9 = 7
Medium
2 + 8 + 2 – 4 = 8
Hard
8 + 6 – 4 – 4 = 6

LOOP

KAKURO

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Special gift — Shehnaaz Gill received a special gift from her grandparents on her 29th birthday. She shared a video saying it was the most adorable feeling to get blessings from her grandparents through a video

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Entertainment Industry Promotion

'YOU'RE MEANT TO MOVE FORWARD'

Shah Rukh Khan on mega big screen return

Pathaan" has been called the grand come back of Shah Rukh Khan but 'King Khan', as the star is known among his adoring fans, on Friday said it's all about trying to finish what one started.

Quoting Ethan Hawke's dialogue, "I never saved anything for the swim back", from Andrew Niccol's film "Gattaca", Shah Rukh, whose new film has opened to a massive box office response, crossing over Rs 200 crore in just two days, said it's not about the return.

"Gattaca movie 'I never saved anything for the swim back'. I think life is a bit like that... You aren't mean to plan your return... U r meant to move forward. Don't come back... try to finish what you started. Just a 57yr olds' advice things (sic)," the actor said.

The dialogue in question is about moving ahead without quitting, something that Shah Rukh, who took a four-year break from lead roles in 2018, seems to identify with.

The success of "Pathaan", which seems like a milestone in the actor's career full of highlights, will launch the mega spy universe that Yash Raj Films has been planning where characters of Salman Khan and Hrithik Roshan from the "Tiger" franchise and "War" cross paths at some point. Salman already gave a hint of things to come with his warmly-received cameo in "Pathan".

The Sidharth Anand-directed movie also stars Deepika Padukone, John Abraham, Dimple Kapadia and Ashutosh Rana. —PTI

Ayo gets aboard Thunderbolts

Ayo Edebiri, the breakout star of 'The Bear,' has joined Marvel Studios' anti-hero team-up film 'Thunderbolts' in an unspecified capacity. According to Variety, a US-based mediahouse, the film is directed by Jake Schreier ('Paper Towns,' 'Robot and Frank') from a script by Eric Pearson ("Black Widow"). Kevin Feige is producing, as he is with every Marvel Studios production.

At the San Diego Comic-Con, Feige confirmed 'Thunderbolts' for 2022 as the culmination of Phase 5 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (which begins in February with 'Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania'). It is currently scheduled to debut on July 26, 2024.

According to Variety, 'Thunderbolts' will bring together anti-heroes from the MCU, including Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh), Red Guardian (David Harbour), and Taskmaster (Olga Kurylenko) from 'Black Widow,' Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan), and John Walker (Wyatt Russell) from 'The Falcon and the Winter Soldier,' and Ghost from 'Ant-Man and the Wasp' (Hannah John-Kamen). Contessa Valentina Allegra de la Fontaine, played by Julia Louis-Dreyfus in 'Falcon and Winter Soldier,' 'Black Widow,' and 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,' will command the crew. —ANI

Work trip, okayed

The Patiala House Court on Friday gave permission to Jacqueline Fernandez to travel to Dubai for a work trip. The actress had previously withdrawn an application court's objection, but later filed another plea. Her advocate Prashant Patil argued the matter at length, while the Enforcement Directorate opposed the application on the grounds that the matter is at a crucial stage.

Giving an update about it, the lawyer told ETimes, "We submitted before the court that Jacqueline has been appearing before the court regularly, she has never skipped a single date, in fact the records of the proceedings show that the ED have not submitted crucial evidence about a said matter to Jacqueline Fernandez. We have never caused any delay in the argument of the

charge. As of now the travel is due to the professional commitments of the actress, it is not a private trip." The court permitted Jacqueline to travel from 27-30 January for her professional commitments. She was directed to submit a fixed deposit of Rs 1 crore as the travel application. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Lure of lucre

Vijay Jagadal, who worked as assistant for eight Kannada movies, is all set to establish himself as an independent director. Jagadal's maiden movie Rupayi is ready for release on February 10. Rupayi is about the journey of five people who have to struggle a lot to make money to live a comfortable life.

"I want to convey a message to society about what happens when people go to any extent to make money. I play one of the three protagonists in this movie too," said Jagadal. The director said the movie has three heroes but only two heroines. "Krishi Thapanda and Chandana Raghavendra are the leading ladies in this movie. While Chandana plays a sex worker, Krishi plays an innocent girl," the director said.

According to the director, Rupayi was shot for 55 days in Bengaluru, Chitradurga and Ramanagara. If all goes well, Rupayi will have Sudeep as chief guest to release its trailer on January 30.

House of movies

Meet Varun Patel, a businessman from JP Nagar, who is debuting as an actor in Sandalwood. Patel's maiden movie Kadala Theerada Bhargava is ready for release. The teaser of this movie was released recently and has got good responses. All the artistes in this film are newcomers but have attended a workshop in acting for eight months.

"I play the lead apart from bankrolling it along with my friend who also acted in this movie," said Patel.

Patel's passion towards movies is interesting. His house at JP Nagar is known for movie shootings. "Around 150 Kannada movies were shot at our house. I happened to see the shooting of the movies Preethsu Thappenilla in which Crazy Star Ravichandran played the lead and Preethse that had Shivarajkumar and Upendra as heroes. I have nourished an ambition to become an actor since my childhood," said Patel.

He said that the team of Kadala Theerada Bhargava made a short movie titled as Klesha a few years ago. "Many people appreciated Klesha and advised us to make it a feature movie. Their encouragement made us make this film. I am confident of its success at the box office. It is a psychological suspense thriller," he said.